

du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc.

A Subsidiary of A.D. Ring, P.A.

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June 25, 1996

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JUN 25 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 96-62

Dear Mr. Caton:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Please find enclosed comments in the above captioned proceeding. We request acceptance of a telefaxed copy plus five additional copies of our comments to be followed with the original tomorrow.

Very truly yours,

BN

Louis Robert du Treil, Jr.

DLR:2232

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JUN 25 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

COMMENTS OF
DU TREIL, LUNDIN & RACKLEY, INC.
CONCERNING NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING
IN MM DOCKET NO. 96-62
REFORMULATION OF BROADCAST BLANKETING INTERFERENCE RULES

The firm of du Treil, Lundin & Rackley, Inc. (dLR) submits the following comments in support of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket No. 96-62 which proposes a reformulation of the blanketing interference rules applicable to AM, FM and TV broadcast stations.

dLR, located in Sarasota, Florida, has been engaged in the broadcast engineering profession for over 50 years. In the recent years, dLR has been directly involved in a number of cases involving AM and FM blanketing blanketing interference.* Many of these cases have come before the Commission; and have involved the enforcement of the present blanketing rules.

AM Blanketing Interference

dLR generally supports the comments of the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers (AFCCE) on this issue. It has been our experience that blanketing from AM broadcast stations is problematic when electric field levels exceed on the order of 4 to 6 V/m. We

* We are not aware of any television station blanketing interference problems. To the extent that there are any television station blanketing interference problems the present television blanketing rule is satisfactory.

would support the Commission's selection of a blanketing interference contour level of greater than 1 V/m.

FM Blanketing Interference

We are generally satisfied with the existing blanketing rule applicable to FM broadcast stations (Section 73.318). The 115 dBu contour calculation methodology stated in Section 73.318 of the FCC Rules is a straight-forward means of determining the area of responsibility for the broadcast licensee. However, our experience indicates that the blanketing interference is most often a problem closer to the station's transmitter than would be predicted using the FCC's 115-dBu definition. dLR supports the selection of a higher blanketing interference contour level definition.

TV Blanketing Interference

dLR does not support the addition of a new TV blanketing rule for TV stations similar to the FM broadcast station rule. It is our experience that TV blanketing interference is not a significant problem requiring a specific rule other than what now exists. We believe that the addition of the rule will create an unnecessary liability for TV broadcast stations. For example, if the rule is adopted as proposed, a UHF station might have a predicted "blanketing contour" extending to 15 miles or more. This is a relatively large area, and if the station is located in a heavily populated area it could include populations into the hundreds of thousands. If just a small percentage of the population within the blanketing area perceive that they are having TV reception difficulties that can be blamed on the subject station, it could become a substantial burden for the station.

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Also, the Commission should consider that its rules are often referenced by local governmental bodies in determining such issues as zoning variances to permit the construction of broadcast towers. The blanketing rule proposed for TV stations implies that blanketing is a problem within the defined distances, which may exceed 10 miles or more. It will be nearly impossible to explain to local residents and zoning board members that the FCC adopted this particular rule for "regulatory consistency" and that "there is really little or no blanketing problem for TV stations." The FCC Rules are held up as the standard to guide local decisions as well. Therefore, even if for this reason alone, dLR requests that the Commission consider the adverse effects of an over-reaching and unnecessary TV blanketing rule.



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